

2008 Practice Portfolio Grade 12

KENTUCKY WRITING PORTFOLIO Table of Contents *Grade 12*

Student Signature Sheet Included and signed Y N (Circle One)

Number of pieces	Category/Descriptor	Content area At least one piece must come from a content area other than English/language arts	Page
1	<i>Reflective Writing</i> (e.g., letter, personal essay)		
	Title: The Essay	English	1
1	<i>Personal Expressive OR Literary Writing</i> personal narrative, memoir, personal essay, story, poem, script, play		
	Title: A True Band of Brothers	English	3
1	<i>Transactive Writing</i> various authentic genres (forms)		
	Title: Untitled	Social Studies	6
1	<i>Transactive Writing with an analytical or Technical focus</i> various authentic genres (forms)		
	Title: The Paper	Newspaper Journalism	7
4	Total (must equal 4)		

After the Table of Contents has been reviewed for accuracy and completeness *prior* to scoring, the person helping the student complete the portfolio should initial and date in the space provided to the left.

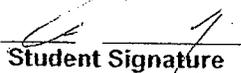
Student Signature Sheet

(Required in Each Portfolio)

Please read the Note to Students and Teachers below before signing the following statements.

Required Verification Signature

The pieces in this portfolio are my own original work. I am the author of all the pieces in my portfolio. I may have talked about my work (through conferencing) with my teacher, family, and friends, but I have made any changes and corrections myself. I did my own writing, typing, and/or word processing (unless otherwise indicated by a teacher's signature in the box below labeled "IEP/504 Plan/Program Services Plan Adaptations").

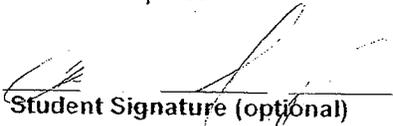

Student Signature _____

IEP/504 Plan/Program Services Plan (LEP) Adaptations (requires teacher signature):

Teacher Signature: _____

Optional Permission

I agree to allow my portfolio to be photocopied for use by others outside my school as an example of student work. I understand that my name, the names of my school and town, and any other identifying information I may have used in my writing will be removed before my portfolio is copied.


Student Signature (optional) _____

Required Verification Signature: It is required that the work contained in each portfolio is the original work of the student. Every portfolio must include the statement, signed by the student, that the work in the portfolio is his/her original work. This sheet must be placed in the portfolio. If the verification statement is not signed, the portfolio will receive a performance rating of Incomplete.

Optional Permission: The use of actual student portfolios is critical in teacher training and is essential for quality control checks during statewide rescoring activities. Students are requested, but not required, to give permission for this purpose and should sign the optional student signature above if they agree.

Please note that portfolios are included in any statewide rescoring activities even if neither statement is signed.

The Essay

“Creativity is a type of learning process where the teacher and pupil are located in the same individual.” This is a quote by Arthur Koestler that quite literally explains me. When I was a young boy, merely the age of seven, I was taught all these different rules about how sentences are put together, how to create meaningful leads, and to captivate the reader. For so long I paid attention to these rules, all the while hating to write and forgetting the one thing that makes anything fun, which is creativity.

As I transgressed from the wonderful days of being on the playground to the war that is high school, the rules of writing didn't change. The need for creativity grew like a ravenous monster as the teachers more commonly demanded quality work.

Unfortunately, the life of a teenager rarely gives room for creativity because schools are focused on meeting the goals of standardized testing. One day while attempting to write my personal piece, *A Band of Brothers*, for the third time in a row, I decided to say “enough is enough” and write whatever came to mind. I finished the piece in five minutes and to this day it remains one of the best pieces I've ever written.

After gaining this “Write whatever I want and to heck with the rest” mentality, I turned to script writing. The first script I ever wrote was called *Scott Free, Private Eye*. The script was decently written, so I decided to make it into a movie. The finished product earned me first place in state competition for film.

In the later years of my high school career, I turned to the fast paced world of the newspaper industry. The genre reminded me a lot about how to structure my work more efficiently. When I first started on the school newspaper I didn't know how to engage the audience well, so I turned to reading the local newspaper for guidance. Murder, mayhem,

riots on the streets. All right, some local farmers got into a fight over a newborn calf, but the topics of the paper didn't matter. The point is that I noticed how the stories were written differently based on the subject. I began to try and write the same way the professionals did. The result made my write more fundamentally sound in the sense that I began to add more detail and language that drew in readers.

Now, upon completion of high school, I believe I have developed all the correct skills needed to write a proficient portfolio, but more importantly I believe I have developed a love for writing that will carry me to a fantastic career as either a journalist or a novelist.

A True Band Of Brothers

A great man once told me a story. This story was about two yeast lying in their excrements. They sat together pondering what their purpose was. Little did they know they were making champagne. I was a lot like those yeast, wondering about my purpose, until one day all that changed.

My quest to find purpose began in July of the year 2003. I had never even heard of marching band before that point, yet I was still determined to go through with whatever it brought. That was what I thought, that was, until the second day of band camp when those fateful words were spoken. "We had someone quit yesterday in the tuba section, we need a volunteer to replace him," said Mr. M_____. He was the new band director. No one really trusted him yet because of the repercussions of past events with new directors. Now he was asking for a tuba player. I wasn't really paying attention. That's when Andy, one of my sophomore friends, told me to raise my hand so I did. Everyone started to yell in excitement. Mr. M_____ said with a smug expression "We got ourselves a tuba player."

With a puzzled expression on my face I walked to the band room with fellow freshman, and tuba player, Jeremy. He retrieved a big, black case, which read on the side Case 3. Jeremy opened the case and pulled out two gargantuan pieces of metallic mass and put them together. I picked up the 65-pound instrument and gave a disgusted look. This wasn't going to be fun.

As the week progressed slowly, I began to get to know my fellow section members: Adam, the senior and section leader; Arthur, the sophomore saxophone switch

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over, Jeremy and myself were the freshmen "newbies." I was still having questions about being in marching band at that time and needless to say I was ready to quit by the third day. When I told Mrs. A., my previous teacher and assistant band director, she had a cow.

"If you're not on this field tomorrow, I'm going to drive to your house and drag you here by your ears." After that little talk my spirits picked up, for the sake of my ears anyway.

Later that night, Mr. M. gave us a speech. "I know the problems of the previous years. Your past band directors have all forsaken you and left without a care, but I promise you I'm here to stay. My family just grew from three to a hundred." Many older members of the group were crying. At that point we all put our full trust in him.

Throughout the entirely grueling process of learning our show and learning how to march, I began to realize what our show, "HOPE," meant. I hoped band camp would end, I hoped I'd never have to carry the tuba ever again, and I hoped I could just go home and play my video games. I think I was kind of missing the point.

After a couple months of the repetition of marching, I slowly began get used to the feeling of the extra weight on my shoulders. My calves were as hard as rock and I got a perfect farmer's tan. As competitions came and passed, we gained more trophies to our collection, we began to gain confidence in ourselves.

October, the end of the season was at hand. We were at state, the culmination of months of hard work, tears, sweat, and blood. As Mr. M. gave us our speech of how it doesn't matter if we win or lose, Arthur pointed to the sky and said "Look, an eagle".

We all knew it wasn't really an eagle, but it lifted our spirits and filled our hearts with

great pride as we marched onto the field of County High School.

The sun shone directly in our eyes as we played the show of our lives. When we

marched off the field every one of us were to the point of exhaustion. We had

accomplished what we came to do.

We didn't make finals that night, but I recieved something much better. I finally

realized what marching band really was.

It meant trying your hardest even if you fail, it meant caring about everyone and

carrying each other through the thick and thin. I found my purpose that night; my purpose

was to be a marching eagle.

October 7, 2005

1400 North Main Street

_____, KY 4

Messenger Inquirer
Readers Write
P.O. Box 1480
_____, KY 4

Dear Editor,

In response to the editorial "_____ County does well by Young People," I agree

that the drop in teen pregnancies and drug use are good things; but _____ County, as a

whole, is not giving their young people a reason to stay as they enter their adult lives.

One of the biggest problems with _____ County is that it doesn't have many

options for job marketing. _____ County has only one real business venue and that is

farming. Unfortunately, in a world such as ours the urge to farm has substantially

declined. My own home, for example, has been a farming area for over seventy years,

but as time has passed our family has steadily given it up. More than half of the teenage

population does not have farming as their career choice. Many of the teenagers I have

spoken to are pursuing careers in mathematics, law, or medicine. A lot of students at

County High School are gifted with arts and music and will venture forth to pursue

careers in those arts, and at the moment _____ County simply does not accommodate the

needs of those people.

"The best thing we have here is a Wal*Mart," say many of the students and they

are right. The county has made little effort to bring big businesses, like Hot Topic, or

good restaurants, like White Castle, into Be _____ or H. _____ Most teens have a

large interest in music and movies. If the county were to put up the money to create an

auditorium, it would draw interest from those gifted in the arts. If that were to happen

more people would come to live here to see independent films or art shows that their

friends and families participate in. Also, the bigger population would bring in the big

businesses that _____ County so desperately needs.

At this moment, the lack of interest in entertainment is causing the people fresh out of

high school to leave as they graduate, with no intent of returning.

I commend the adults of our county for helping teens succeed, but it's now time to

look into helping the county grow and develop. My suggestion would be to start out

small. Something as simple as building a better movie theater would increase population

substantially. I sincerely believe that if the community put forth the same effort in

entertainment that they do for their children then this county could become the greatest in

the state.

Sincerely,

A concerned teen
Class of 2007

The Paper

In everyday life the media covers stories that seem almost like they could only

happen in the movies such a murder trial or a drug bust and every day the reporters work hard to take the information they've acquired and make a story. Many people often never think about it, but the media goes through a lot to get their big scoops. The Paper shows a day in the life of a newspaper reporter. Corruption, greed, and lies fill the everyday life of reporter, Henry, who is played by Michael Keaton, as he tries to please his pregnant wife while also working on the *New York Sun*. When two teenage African American

boys are accused of murder, all the newspapers go into a shark-like frenzy to get the big story. However, Henry doesn't believe the young men did the crime (mostly because he found information on a rival editor's desk during a job interview) and tries to get the real story, all the while having a deadline to meet as well as a dinner with his wife and

parents.

Another main character is Alicia, played by Glen Close. She is Henry's enemy who tries with all her power to keep Henry from doing what he wants to through printing a false story instead of waiting for the real scoop. She also has her own love endeavors by cheating on her husband and also whining for more money every chance she gets.

Keaton and Close work well together, showing their best hatred for one another

on the set. The all star cast also includes Robert Duvall who plays Bernie, a man who fears his upcoming death from cancer and tries to reconcile his differences with his

daughter, as well as Randy Quaid who plays MacDougal, the street beat reporter who

somehow gets the answers no one else can seem to find.

The 152-minute film is rated R for language, vulgar humor, and violence. The

Paper is a good movie for those who have ever been interested in working on a

newspaper staff because it shows the basic day in the life of a newspaper reporter while

also adding a little theatrical flair. Even for those who don't have an interest in working

for a newspaper, The Paper would still be an excellent movie choice because of the great

acting skill of a fantastic cast and has many different theatrical elements such as drama,

humor, and action. The Paper would make a stupendous addition to any movie

collection.

.30.